

by the pulpit being more faithful in proclaiming the law of Christ's house in the matter? The blame in many instances rests with the minister, who never refers to the subject, and by his negative position makes it appear as if the Church had no business with money. But if the minister would rightly divide the Word of Truth, the pulpit must give clear, full and repeated instruction on the question of systematic giving. And next to the pulpit as its noblest ally, are a few earnest, liberal office-bearers and members who preach benevolence through their own practice. What a warmth and zeal it inspires when these manifest a large-heartedness and thus set a healthy example of Christian generosity.

Every one must admit there is room for improvement in the exercise of this grace in all our churches. Even many of those who profess to value and enjoy the ordinances, withhold more than is meet, though there is marked progress in many of our congregations, and some are learning to worship God through the collection as well as in other parts of the service. They have learned that giving is an act of worship, and that the piety of any one may be questioned, no matter how ostentatiously he claims to have reached the higher life, who grudges his small pittance to the cause of God. And more especially if he belongs to a congregation where this duty has been clearly and faithfully laid before the people. Amongst the different subjects for Christian conference it is gratifying to note that systematic giving by weekly, or at any rate frequent offerings, in the house of God is receiving increased attention, and, so far as reported in town and city charges, the weekly offering system works well.

Men must consecrate their wealth as well as themselves. A Baptist brother as he was stepping down into the water to be immersed was reminded that he had better take his watch and pocket-book out of his pockets. He did remove his watch, but on second thought left his pocket-book, remarking, "I want to baptise my pocket-book along with myself." Very few Christians do that. A luxurious, selfish life threatens us as it threatened ancient Greece and Rome. And amid the currents and counter-currents of society, the members of the Church are exposed to criminal indulgence, and the treasury of the Lord is impoverished. Society is binding around its neck a yoke that is